minimum) the first three referenced earlier-filed applications, this application had been pending for at least two years as of June 8, 1995. The fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(r) accompanies this response, which is filed prior to the filing of an appeal brief and prior to abandonment. Accordingly, this request for entry of the following amendments under the transitional procedure is appropriate.

Amendment

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 10 and add new claims 40-52 as follows:

--Claim 40. (New) A hepatitis C virus (HCV) antisense polynucleotide capable of specifically hybridizing to the genome of an HCV or its complement, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides complementary to the genome of an HCV or its complement. a complement of a complement is sense

Claim 41. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 wherein the contiguous sequence is at least 10 nucleotides.

Claim 42. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 wherein the contiguous sequence is at least 12 nucleotides.

Claim 43. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 wherein the contiguous sequence is at least 15 nucleotides.

Claim 44. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 wherein the contiguous sequence is at least 20 nucleotides.

Claim 45. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 wherein the polynucleotide is capable of selectively hybridizing to the genome of HCV1.

Claim 46. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 further comprising a molecule capable of causing a scission in the HCV RNA genome, wherein the molecule is covalently bound or noncovalently attached to the polynucleotide.

Claim 47. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 40 comprising at least one substituted or altered bond between bases.

Claim 48. (New) The ~~antisense polynucleotide~~ pharmaceutical composition of claim 47 wherein said at least one substituted or altered bond is a phosphorothioate bond.

Claim 49. (New) A antisense polynucleotide delivery system for delivering an HCV antisense polynucleotide to a patient, the system comprising:

(a) an HCV antisense polynucleotide capable of specifically hybridizing to the genome of an HCV or its complement, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides complementary to the genome of an HCV or its complement; and

(b) a liposome.

Claim 50. (New) A method of treating a patient infected with HCV comprising administering to the patient the HCV antisense polynucleotide of claim 40.

Claim 51. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the antisense polynucleotide is delivered to the patient by gene therapy.

Claim 52. (New) A method of preventing HCV viral replication in a system comprising adding to the system the HCV antisense polynucleotide of claim 40.--

<u>Remarks</u>

Claim 10 was pending in the subject application, and claims 40-52 are presented herein for reconsideration.